



Map Literacy



OUR CHANGING ISLANDS

A History of the Census in CNMI

Grades 5-12

Skills and Objectives:

- Students will learn about the census, why it is important, and how it is beneficial to the residents of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Suggested Groupings:

Small groups, individuals

Getting Started:

Ask students to guess the answers to the following questions. 1. **What is the population of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands?** (43,345, based on 1990 census) 2. **Are there more males or females in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands?** (males — 22,802; females — 20,543, based on 1990 census) 3. **What is the median age of the population of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands?** (27.4, based on 1990 census) 4. **What was the population of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in 1950, three years after it became a Trust Territory administered by the U.S.?** (6,286) Tell students that we can know the answers to these questions through data collected by the census. The U.S. Census Bureau conducts a complete count of all the people living in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands every 10 years. The information collected by the census includes the population of our islands, as well as people's ages, education, occupations, etc.

- Explain to students that the first census in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands was taken in 1920 under the authority of the government of Japan. Approximately 3,398 persons were counted then. The Japanese government conducted three more censuses in 1925, 1930, and 1935. In 1947, the United States Navy assumed responsibility for administering the islands, and since 1970, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has been included in the decennial censuses of the United States.

Chalkboard Definitions

census: a count of a population in a given area.

confidential: private or secret.

decennial: occurring every 10 years.

data: factual information.

district: a geographic unit of measurement used by the Census Bureau.

Using the Activity Worksheets:

- Photocopy and distribute the Activity Worksheet (page 10) and maps (pages 9 and 28), along with “Census at a Glance” (page 8).
- Review “Census at a Glance” (page 8) and discuss with students why the census is so important.
- Explain that they will be working in groups of four or fewer to solve the word puzzle on page 10.

Wrapping Up:

- Review the students' answers to the questions on page 10 and discuss them

in class. Use these answers to initiate a discussion about population trends in CNMI and how they influence the islands' future.

Extension Activity:

Ask students to write their own questions based on the maps (pages 9 and 28) and/or the population table (page 10). Then have them exchange questions with their classmates and research the answers. Grades 9-12: Have students review the history of their district. Ask: **When was their district established? Are its boundaries the same today as when it was established? What factors have affected the population growth of their district?** To answer these questions, students will need to obtain census information for CNMI and their districts. Have them start with a visit to their local or school library.

Answers: Page 10

1. Uracus
2. Northern Islands
3. Tinian
4. Saipan
5. Guam
6. Saipan
7. Census
8. The islands were occupied by the Japanese.
9. A high level of immigration from Asia, primarily the Philippines, due mainly to increased employment opportunities in the textile industry.



Name: _____

Census at a Glance

- The U.S. Census is mandated by Article 1, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution, which requires an enumeration of the population of the United States every 10 years.
- Title 13 of the United States Code, which sets out the basic laws under which we conduct a census, specifies that the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands shall be included in the decennial census.
- On March 27, 2000, the U.S. Postal Service will deliver questionnaires called Advance Census Reports (ACRs) to every household in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. ACRs ask for information about every person living in every household. A few days before the ACR arrives, each household will receive an advance letter alerting them to its delivery. Each household will be asked to complete the questionnaire and hold it until a census worker picks it up on or soon after March 31, 2000. If the ACR is not complete when the census worker arrives, then he or she will help complete it by conducting a personal interview.
- All individual information collected for the census is confidential. Census workers can be fined and/or jailed for releasing this information, and the Census Bureau itself is forbidden by law from sharing such information with other government agencies.
- The first census in the United States was taken in 1790. The first U.S. decennial census in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands was taken in 1970. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands became a part of the United States in 1944.
- In addition to taking a complete count of the population, the U.S. Census Bureau also collects information about housing, age, marital status, education, and economic indicators.
- The census is important because the information obtained from the form helps federal and local governments determine where new roads, parks, schools, hospitals, and other services are needed. A new school and library, for example, could be built in your neighborhood based on data indicating a large increase in the number of school-age children living there.
- The U.S. Census Bureau plans long in advance for every census. While conducting a census, the Census Bureau is already planning for the next census, even though it is 10 years away.
- Census day is April 1, 2000: All people living in the U.S. and its territories on this day are included in the official count.



1980 Population of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

• *Uracus*
(*Farallon de Pajaros*)

• *Maug Islands*

• *Asuncion Island*

Northern Mariana Islands

• *Agrihan*

Philippine Sea

Sea

• *Pagan*

• *Alamagan*

• *Guguan*



• *Sarigan*

• *Anatahan*

Northern Islands 104

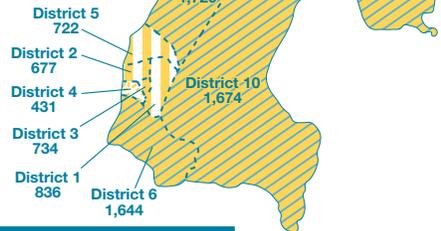
• *Farallon de Medinilla*

Saipan, Tinian & Rota Islands 16,676

• *Saipan*
• *Tinian*
• *Aguijan*

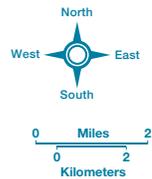
• *Rota*

Philippine Sea



• **Saipan 14,549**

NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN



MAP KEY

DISTRICT POPULATION

- Over 1,500
- 1,000 - 1,499
- 500 - 999
- Less than 500

- Capital
- District Boundary

1980 Population of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands: 16,780

Philippine Sea

Aguijan

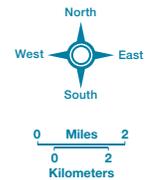
District 1 (part)

Tinian 866

District 2 374

District 1 (part) 492

NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN



Philippine Sea

District 2 155

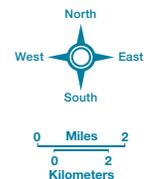
District 3 82

District 4 611

Rota 1,261

District 1 413

NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN



All information on this map is based on 1980 Census data.



Name: _____

A History of the Census in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

To answer the following questions and solve the word puzzle, you'll need to compare the 1980 and 1990 population maps of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

- The northernmost point of CNMI is on the island of _____○_____
- Which district lost population between 1980 and 1990?
_____○_____
- The population of District 1 in the municipality of _____○_____ nearly tripled between 1980 and 1990.
- This municipality includes a district that gained over 8,000 persons between 1980 and 1990: _____○_____
- Which U.S. territory is closest in proximity to CNMI? _____○_____
- The population of this municipality in 1990 was larger than the entire population of CNMI in 1980: _____○_____
- What do the circled letters spell? _____

POPULATION HISTORY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, 1920-1990

1920	3,398	1935	44,043	1970	9,640
1925	3,493	1950	6,286	1980	16,780
1930	3,829	1958	8,290	1990	43,345

NOTE: The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' figures were included in the figures for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands from 1950 to 1970. The Japanese government provided the figures for the censuses of 1920 through 1935. The 1950 census figures are from the United States Department of Navy's report on the administration of the Trust Territory. The High Commissioner of the Trust Territory took the 1958 census. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands were included in the United States Decennial Census Program for the 1970 and 1980 censuses.

The table above shows the history of population change for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands since 1920, which reflects important changes and events that have taken place on our islands. Using your knowledge of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, try to answer the following questions. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

- Between 1930 and 1935 the population on the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands grew by over 1,000%. How do you explain this?
- What accounts for the major increase in population between 1980 and 1990?